## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSCE-00

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R 311455Z DEC 75 FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7242 INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMEMBASSY PARIS JCS (J-5) WASHDC USCINCEUR

SECRETLIBREVILLE 2161

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, GB, FR, US

SUBJ: MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO GABON

REF: STATE 303012 (NOTAL)

- 1. WITH PRIOR AGREEMENT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE, I BRIEFED FRANCH AMBASSADOR MAURICE DELAUNEY DECEMBER 31 ON FORTHCOMING VISIT TO GABON OF US MILITARY TEAM.
- 2. I TOLD DELAUNEY, WITHOUT SPECIFYING TIMING, THAT WE HAD RECEIVED REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT BONGO FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE COUCHED IN TERMS OF HIS CONCERN OVER SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND PRESENCE OF POTENTIALLY HOSTILE FORCES IN NEIGHBORING CONGO AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA. WE HAD DECIDED TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE BY WAY OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAD INFORMED BONGO OF OUR PROPOSAL TO SEND MILITARY SURVEY TEAM IN EARLY JANUARY. I CONCLUDED BY PROMISING TO KEEP DELAUNEY INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN VIEW DESIRABILITY OF COORDINATING OUR EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD.

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3. IN REPLY, DELAUNEY EXPRESSED AGPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION, AND ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY PRESIDENT'S REQUEST TO USG. FRENCH WERE CONSTANTLY BEING ASKED BY GABONESE FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BUT COULD NOT POSSIBLY SATISFY ALL THEIR REQUESTS. EVEN WHEN GABONESE BUY EQUIPMENT, AS IN THE CASE OF FIVE MIRAGES ON RECENT CONTRACT, FRENCH ENDED UP HAVING TO PROVIDE GRANT AID IN FORM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PERHAPS FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION OF SUPPORT FACILITIES. THUS, HE FELT THERE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY USEFUL ROLE WHICH US COULD PALY IN THIS AREA. STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY VISITS, SURVEYS

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